



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1999/140
6 April 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 9

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 1 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva
addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

In the course of consideration of item 9 of the agenda of the present session of the Commission, the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan circulated another document (E/CN.4/1999/121) entitled "Appeal from the inhabitants of the district of Khojaly to the peoples of the world, States, parliaments and international organizations", containing appalling disinformation on the events in Khojaly of 1992.

This kind of literature by the Azerbaijani Government is again designed to smother the atrocities and the mass killings of its own people during the period of armed conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

My delegation will comment on the contents of this document by quoting the very words of Aiaz Motalibov, President of the Azerbaijani Republic at that time. In an interview with the Czech journalist Dana Mazalova, President Motalibov stated: "... the militia of the Azerbaijani National Front (ANF) actively obstructed and actually prevented the evacuation of the local civilian population from the zone of military operations through the mountain passages specially left open by Karabakh Armenians". The great hope of the Azerbaijani opposition and its intention was to utilize civilian losses of such a magnitude to instigate a popular uprising against the Baku regime and seize the reins of power. This interview of the then President of Azerbaijan was published in the Russian newspaper, Nizavisimaya Gazeta of 2 April 1992.

Let me also mention a non-governmental organization, Helsinki Watch, which, in its report of September 1992, wrote: "An Azerbaijani woman is confirming that Armenians had advised the Azerbaijani civil population of Khojaly to leave the town with white flags raised. In fact the Azerbaijani militia shot those who attempted to flee."

My delegation is convinced that the above-mentioned information adequately explains the real situation of that time. We believe that instead of disseminating blatant lies at the Commission, Azerbaijan should rather make an effort to restore truth for the sake of the people of Khojaly and, at the same time, bring to justice the Azerbaijani criminal gangs and bandits responsible for the massacres of innocent victims.

My delegation regrets to have to evidence such painful facts and to have to request you, Madam Chairperson, the circulation of this letter as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9 in response to the information contained in the mentioned document.

(Signed) Karen NAZARIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
